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THE DIRECTORY

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MALAY, HOLLAND, BORNEO, &c., &c.,
WITH WHICH ARE INCORPORATED
THE CHINA DIRECTORY

THE HONGKONG DIRECTORY

FOR
1897.

THE THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL ISSUE

will be found complete, more full and
valuable than its predecessors.

It contains a complete list of the names of
all the firms in Hongkong, with their
addresses, and is a most valuable
work for all who are connected with
the trade.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

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THE HONGKONG FREE PRESS.

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library could have existed so long as it has

done. In the circular now issued to the

members Mr. POLLOCK, after stating the

financial position, says: "Under the above

"circumstances it appears to be manifestly

"necessary that the subscription to the

"Library should be increased if it is to be

"continued as a going concern, and, unless

"all the present members of the Library

"are willing to raise their subscription from

"\$5.00 a half year to \$7.50 a half year, it

"appears to be absolutely impossible that

"the Library should be carried on in an

"efficient and satisfactory condition, and

"there would seem to be no alternative in

"that case but to close the Library and to

"sell the books, many of which are standard

"and valuable works, at a sacrifice."

"We trust, however, means may be found for

"overcoming the difficulty without in any

"way impairing the value of the Library."

"In the true sense of the term, and the idea

"of a high subscription is not, usually

"associated with that of a public library.

"To many members of the community

"\$15 a year may seem a small matter, but

"there is a large and growing class in the

"colony who find it necessary to watch their

"expenditure, very narrowly and to them

"an additional \$5 a year would be a con-

"sideration of some moment. And this is

"the very class for whom a public library

"should cater, families of small incomes

"and young people who have just gone

"to business and whose supply of pocket

"money is strictly limited. We would

"much prefer, if it were possible, to see

"the subscription reduced to a merely

"nominal sum or abolished altogether, the

"library being made entirely free. That

"could only be done either by the establish-

"ment of an endowment fund by one or more

"wealthy members of the community or by

"the Government defraying the whole ex-

"penditure, neither of which alternatives

"seems at the moment at all probable. Some

"assistance, however, may reasonably be

"expected from the Government, and a very

"small annual grant would be sufficient

"to keep the existing Public Library on

"its legs as a nucleus from

"which a larger and more popular institution

"might be evolved in the future. Four or

"five hundred dollars a year would cover the

"amount the Hon. Secretary now asks the

"members to provide by increased subscrip-

"tions, and that is a very much more modest

"sum than from the Government than the

"three or four thousand dollars of which Sir

"WILLIAM ROBINSON spoke at the meeting

"held eighteen months ago."

Members of the Victoria Recreation Club

are reminded of the annual meeting, which takes

place this afternoon.

H.M.S. Underside arrived yesterday from

Trinidad, where she received a new crew

from H.M.S. Endeavour.

The P. & O. steamer City of Peking, with

mail, left Shanghai for this port on

Wednesday, the 26th instant, at 3 p.m.

On Monday afternoon H.E. the Governor

will distribute the certificates gained in the

recent London College of Music examination.

The Riksmars steamship De Ruyter, from

Amsterdam and Hongkong, left Singapore on

Wednesday, the 26th instant, and may be ex-

pected here on Wednesday, the 2nd June.

The C. P. steamer Empress of China arrived

at Koko at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 26th

May, and left the port at 11.30 p.m. on same

day for Nagasaki.

The C. P. steamer Empress of Japan arrived

at Koko at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesday, the 26th

May, and left the port at 11.30 p.m. on same

day for Yokohama, where she was expected to

arrive at noon yesterday.

The N. D. L. steamer Prussia, carrying the

mail, left Singapore yesterday at 7 a.m., and

may be expected here on Monday, the 31st

instant.

An extraordinary general meeting of the

Green Island Cement Co., Limited, is convened

for the 5th June, when special resolutions will

be submitted for approval by an increase of the

capital of the company.

From the late telegrams published in another

column it will be seen that plague has broken

the P. & O. steamer Empress of Japan left Singapore

at this port yesterday at 9 a.m.

At a meeting of the Straits Legislative

Council on the 26th May the Acting Colonial

Secretary gave notice of the following resolu-

tion: "Whereas it is expedient that certain

advertisements and notices in the Government

Gazette should be for the better of the colony

and whereas it is estimated that the cost of

such works will amount to £2,500, it is

resolved that a sum not exceeding

£2,500 be appropriated for the purpose aforesaid

and to be provided for in the Final Supply Bill

for the current year.

The Company's National steamer Canton,

which stranded and sank on January 29th

while on the return voyage from Haiphong to

Saigon, just after leaving Tientsin, arrived at

Singapore on the 26th May and went into dock

at Tanjong Pagar for temporary repairs. She

struck a rock, which caused a large hole in the

starboard side, and the means of stopping the

leak proved inefficient and she rapidly

filled, being holed in several places. All attempts

to stop the leak proved inefficient and she rapidly

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